

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-21. In this Response, claims 1, 6, 14, and 18 have been amended, and no claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The Office Action asserts that the drawings do not show the third component face having keys as claimed in claim 8.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings show and the specification describes the features of claim 8. Referring to the example of Applicants' invention in Fig. 1, a pair of direction inputting elements 16 and 17 of the pressure sensitive type and keys 18a to 18c and keys 19a to 19c are disposed on the back face of the portable information terminal 10. See the specification at page 9, lines 29-31. The back face having the direction inputting elements 16, 17 and keys 18a to 18c, 19a to 19c is a face of the portable information terminal 10 opposite to the front face having input key set 15. Also, Fig. 2 shows and the specification describes at page 10, line 24 to page 11 line 7 a rear face having keys opposite a front face. See, also, Fig. 3 and the specification at page 11, lines 8-22. The rear face is an example of a third component face as claimed in claim 8.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-21 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 6, 14, and 18 were specifically objected to.

In response, claims 1, 6, 14, and 18 have been amended merely to clarify the claims. Applicants submit that claims have not been narrowed and subject matter has not been surrendered. Furthermore, the amendments are not made for substantial reasons related to patentability or in view of any prior art.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim objections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Deeds (U.S. 6,202,257). On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 2, 6-14, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deeds in view of Miwa (U.S. 5,626,428). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants' invention, as claimed in claim 1, pertains to a portable information terminal which allows an inputting operation with one hand. Claim 1 calls for a polyhedral structure having a plurality of component faces including at least a first component face and a second component face. The second component face is adjacent to the first component face and has a keyboard capable of accepting a plurality of different user inputs. Claim 1 also calls for a display screen accommodated on the first component face.

One example of Applicants' invention is shown in Fig. 1. A portable information terminal (10) allows an inputting operation with one hand. The portable information terminal (10) has a polyhedral structure having a plurality of component faces including a first component face (face having display screen 12) and a second component face (front face having keyboard 15). The second component face (front face having keyboard 15) is adjacent the first component face (face having display screen 12) and has a keyboard (input key set 15) capable of accepting a plurality of different user inputs. A display screen (12) is accommodated on the first component face.

Turning to Deeds, Deeds pertains to a handheld device having modifiable hand grip configuration. The Deeds handheld device 100 has a body 116 having sides 118a and 118b. The handheld device 100 has control keys 104 and a microphone 106 for controlling operation of the device 100. However, nowhere does Deeds disclose or suggest a keyboard be provided on either side 118a or 118b. Further, Deeds provides hand grips on the side 118a and 118b. See raised portions 110a and 112a on side 118a, and raised portions 110b and 112b on side 118b. Side 118a (118b) also includes a rib 114a (114b) that runs along the side 118a (118b). Further, hand grips 108a and 108b may be attached or secured to sides 118a and 118b to form a gripping surface with said gripping portions of each of sides 118a and 118b. See Deeds, column 2, lines

15-44. Accordingly, Deeds shows and describes gripping portions along the sides of the handheld device and does not disclose or suggest a keyboard on one of the sides.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to modify the Deeds handheld device to include a keyboard on one of the sides 118a, 118b. Providing a keyboard on one of the sides 118a or 118b instead of the hand grips would be contrary to Deeds which purports to provide an advantage of interchangeable hand grips along the sides 118a and 118b.

Turning to Miwa, Miwa pertains to a keyboard device. Fig. 1 of Miwa shows a label printer 1 having a keyboard 2 and a liquid crystal display 3 on the same face of the printer 1. Nowhere does Miwa disclose or suggest that the keyboard 2 be on a different face of the device than the liquid crystal display 3.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the § 102(a) rejection of claim 1 and the § 103(a) rejection of claims 2, 6-14, and 18-21 have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Michael S. Leonard
Reg. No. 37,557
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4270

Dated: January 13, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 14, and 18 to read as follows.

1. (Amended) A portable information terminal which allows an inputting operation with one hand, comprising:

a polyhedral structure having a plurality of component faces including at least a first component face and a second component face, wherein the second component face is adjacent the first component face and [may accept] has a keyboard capable of accepting a plurality of different user inputs; and

a display screen accommodated on the first component face.[.]

6. (Amended) A portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhedral structure includes a third component face as part of the plurality of component faces with which a thumb of a hand can contact such that the polyhedral structure [can be] is capable of being supported by a portion of the hand proximate to a root of the thumb, and wherein the portable information terminal further comprises at least four input keys arranged in a zigzag pattern on the second component face which can be operated with four fingers of the hand from a forefinger of the hand on down.

14. (Amended) A portable information terminal which allows an inputting operation with one hand, comprising:

a polyhedral structure having a plurality of component faces including at least a keyboard face and a thumb operation face, wherein the thumb operation face is disposed in an opposing position with respect to the keyboard face and [may be] is capable of being contacted with a thumb of a hand; and

a keyboard having at least four input keys arranged in a zigzag pattern on the keyboard face, the at least four input keys being operable with four fingers of the hand from a forefinger of the hand on down.

18. (Amended) A portable information terminal as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

a left hand operation section arranged on the thumb operation face which [can be] is capable of being operated using a thumb of a left hand; and

a right hand operation section arranged on the thumb operation face which [can be] is capable of being operated using a thumb of a right hand.